

Application No.: 10/762,891
Filed: January 21, 2004
AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Remarks

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 22, 2006. The undersigned thanks Examiner D'Agosta for his review of the application and his finding of allowable subject matter in the claims. Examiner D'Agosta is respectfully requested to reconsider the present application in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein. No new subject matter has been added.

Summary of Claim Amendments:

Claims 1, 5-8, 10-15, 17-18, and 21-29 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to seek patent protection for these and similar claims in continuing applications.

Claims 2-4, 9, 16, 19, and 20 are pending in the present application.

Restriction Requirement:

In the Office Action, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement, requiring election of one of three claim groupings. The Examiner provisionally elected Group I, comprising Claims 1-9 and 16-20 for consideration in the remainder of the Office Action. Applicant hereby elects Group I. Claims 10-15, 21-25, and 26-29 are therefore cancelled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to seek patent protection for these and similar claims in continuing applications.

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Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In light of the present amendments to the claims as described below, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are rendered moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claims 2-3, 8, and 18-19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but found that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended Claim 2 to incorporate the limitations of its base claim, Claim 1. Claim 3 depends from Claim 2, and as such is allowable as a matter of law.

Claim 4, the base claim for Claim 8, has been amended to include all of the limitations of Claim 8 and any intervening claims. Claim 9 depends from Claim 4, and as such is allowable as a matter of law.

Claim 16, the base claim for Claim 18, has been amended to include all of the limitations of Claim 18 and intervening Claim 17. Claim 19 depends from Claim 18, and as such is allowable as a matter of law.

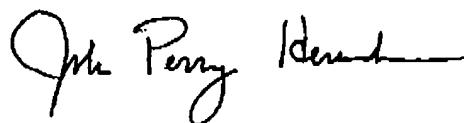
Upon entry of this response, each of the pending claims are directed to subject matter found to be allowable by the Examiner in the previous office action. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and requests that a notice of allowance be issued for this case.

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Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all the claims pending in this case. Should Examiner D'Agosta believe that a telephone conference would be useful to resolve any concerns and move this application to allowance, Examiner D'Agosta is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. Otherwise, Applicant respectfully requests the present application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issue. The present communication is believed to be a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed February 22, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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